

Schnull's Block (Commercial Building)
102-108 South Meridian Street
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-210

HABS
IND,
49-IND,
39-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

SCHNULL'S BLOCK
(Commercial Building)

HABS No. IN-210

HABS
IND,
49-IND,
39-

Location:

Indianapolis Union Station--Wholesale District
102-108 South Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana
USGS Indianapolis West, Indiana Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
16 .572100 .4401840

Significance:

As the first wholesale commercial building in the Indianapolis Wholesale District, Schnull's Block of 1863 (architect unknown) at 102-108 South Meridian established many of the architectural themes that became prevalent in commercial buildings in the city during the second half of the 19th century; the building was important for its sheer size (four stories high and 12 bays wide), which was in strong contrast to the individual dwellings that lined South Meridian Street at the time it was built.

Description:

The building footprint followed the lot lines, taking full advantage of its corner lot. As originally constructed, this large, four-story brick commercial building contained four ground floor storefronts along Meridian Street corresponding to its four structural divisions of interior brick bearing walls. The attic half-story with its series of ocular windows was added after the fire of 1895. Prior to this, the building had sported a dentilled metal cornice, parapet, with a false-front round-arched pediment bearing the legend "Schnull's Block." The facade's organization by demarcating quoins, and the second floor's arcade (formed by the round-arched windows' hood molds connected by an impost course), are perhaps the building's most distinguishing features. Both were formerly highlighted by the 19th-century paint scheme of contrasting colors that accented the stone trim, as evidenced by historic photographs.

Four interior brick bearing walls divided the large structure into four long and narrow sections. Although the building does not represent any structural advancement for its time, its primary architectural significance derives from its role as a forerunner for the district. Schnull's Block introduced the arcade motif, in which round-arched windows' hood molds are connected by an impost course (at the second floor only).

History:

The Indianapolis Wholesale District is historically the place of business of most of Indianapolis' wholesale merchants. Some wholesalers gained regional or even national clienteles; all played a part in transforming Indianapolis from a small town into the state's largest city.

The Wholesale District itself began in 1863. In that year, two German-immigrant brothers, August and Henry Schnull, built the first wholesale house on South Meridian Street, which had been theretofore a residential street lined with houses. This building, known as Schnull's Block, at 102-08 South Meridian, housed the brothers' wholesale grocery business, which they had previously operated on Washington Street with the other early wholesale merchants. After only two years in the new building, the Schnulls had made their fortune due to the tremendous volume of business flowing through the state capital during the Civil War. August Schnull retired and returned to live in his native Germany.

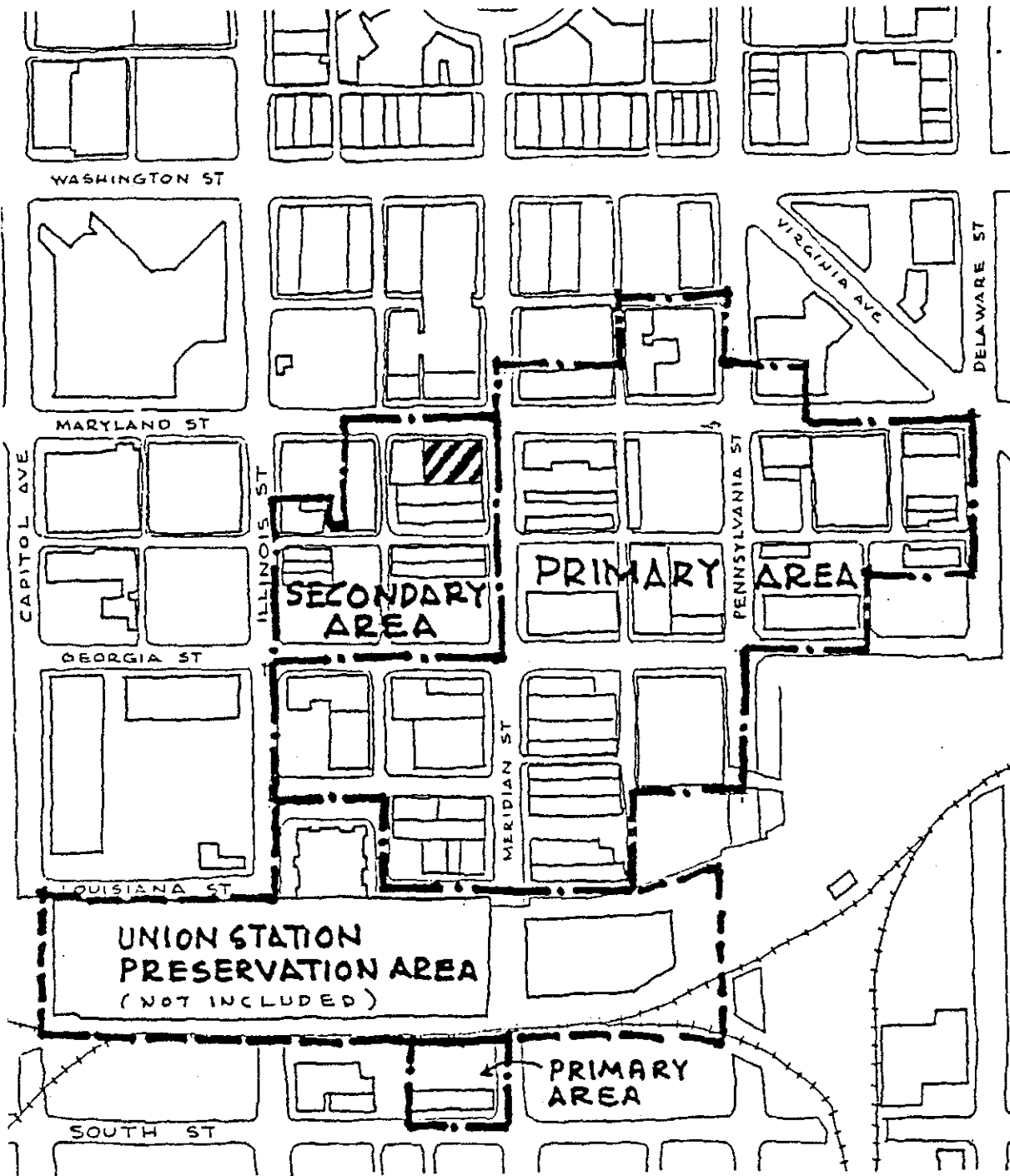
Henry Schnull, a man with unusual business vision, remained in Indianapolis and devoted his energies to developing a wholesale district for his adopted city. Schnull saw the residential area between the retail merchants on Washington Street and the Union Depot and freight depots on South Street as an ideal site for the wholesale trade. During the 1860s, he pursued his ambitious vision of a wholesale district by purchasing lots, razing houses, erecting speculative wholesale houses, and persuading other businessmen to do the same. By the early 1870s, Schnull had succeeded: wholesaling was firmly established in the region between South and Washington Streets.

Source:

Indianapolis Wholesale District National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1982;
Wholesale District Historic Area Preservation Plan #HA-22(WD), 1988;
Jacob Piatt Dunn, ed. Memorial Record of Distinguished Men of Indianapolis and Indiana. Chicago, 1912.

Historian:

Alan Conant, Researcher
Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission
December 7, 1988



WHOLESALE DISTRICT

INDIANAPOLIS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION

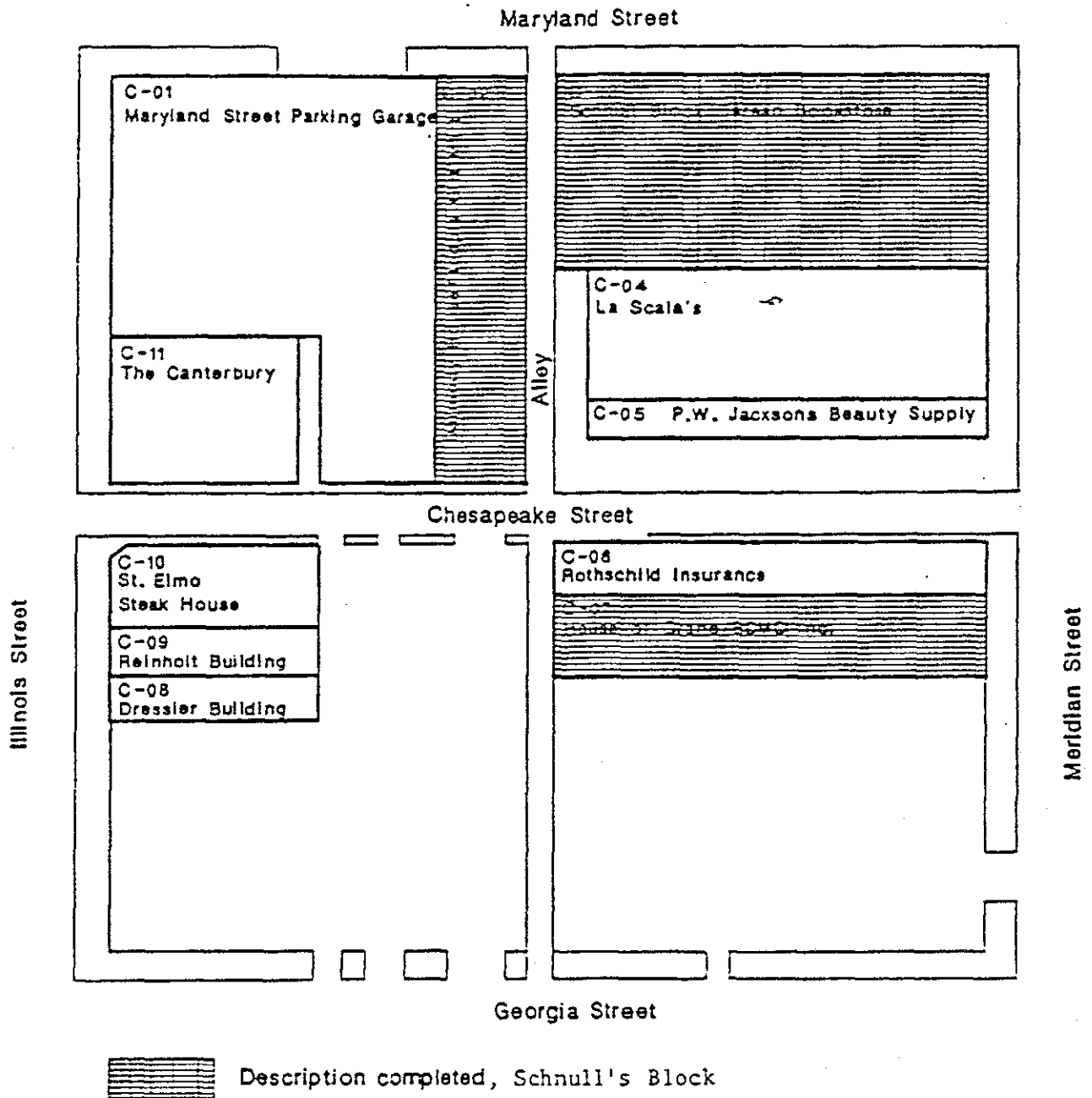
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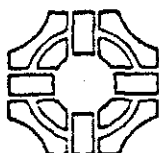
MAP 2 of Wholesale District Historic
Area Preservation Plan HA-22(WD) p.5
OFFICIAL BOUNDARIES



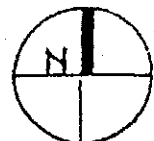
= Schnull's Block



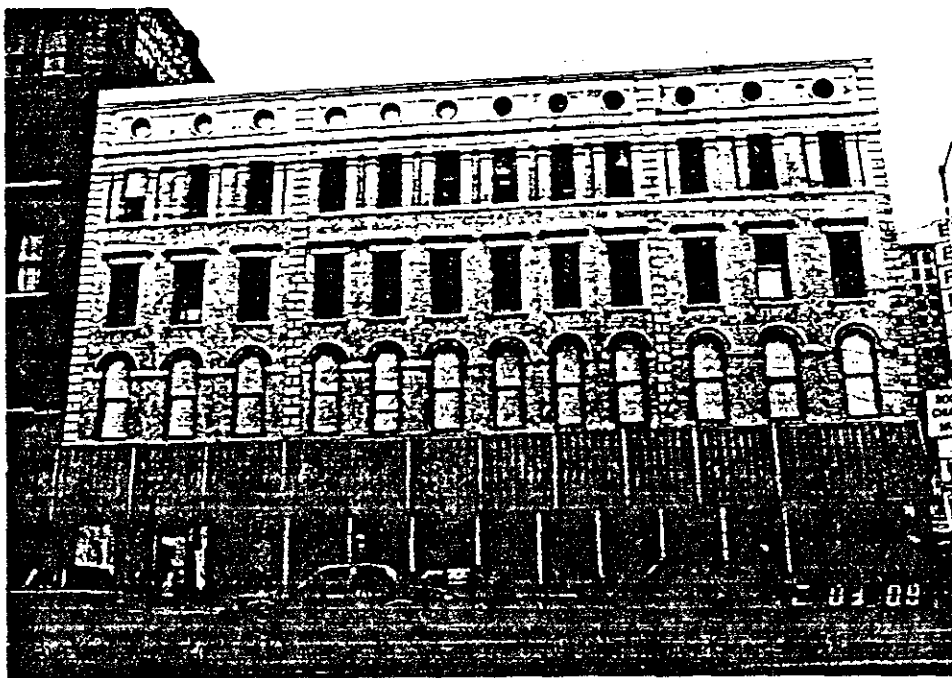
source: Building Descriptions, Circle Centre Mall Indianapolis, Indiana
 Browning Day Mullins Dierdori Inc.
 334 N. Senate Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46204 02/08/88



BLOCK C
 Square 75

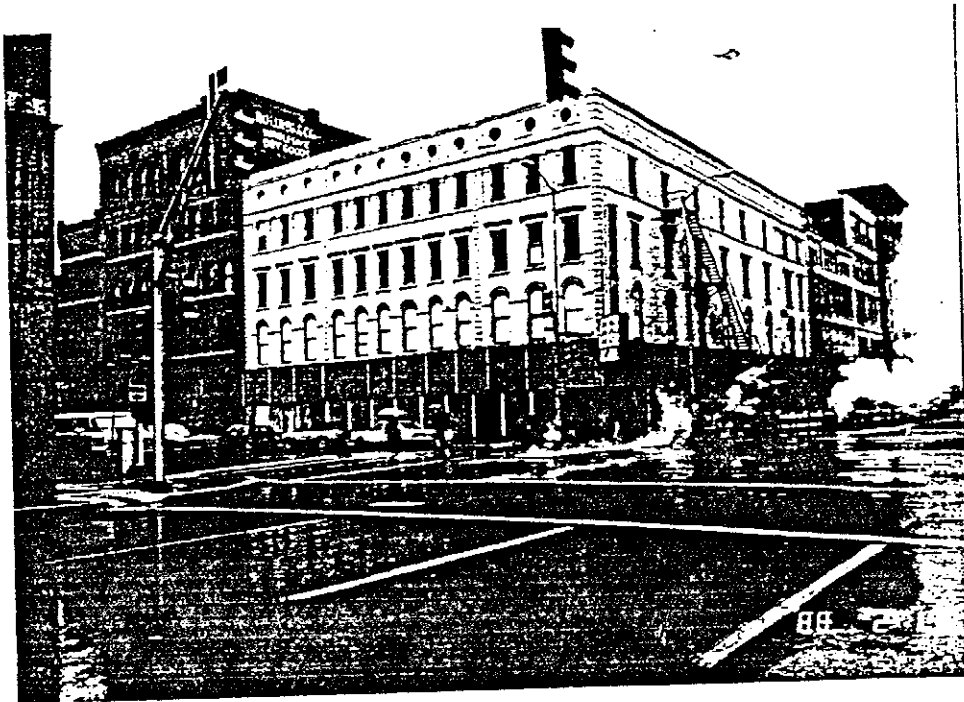


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Schnull's Block, looking west from the east side of
S. Meridian Street. Browning, Day, Mullins, Dierdorff,
3/09/88.

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Schnull's Block, view looking southwest from northeast corner of Meridian and Maryland Streets. Browning, Day, Mullins, Dierdorf, 2/19/88.

- LEGEND
1. AIR INTAKE/EXHAUST VENT
 2. AIR CONDENSING UNIT
 3. AIR HANDLING UNIT
 4. FAN
 5. MECHANICAL DUCT
 6. LIQUID STORAGE TANK/WATER HEATER
 7. MISC. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
 8. JUNCTION
 9. BUTLER
 10. PUMPING EQUIPMENT
 11. EXTENSIVE PIPING ABOVE
 12. MECHANICAL CHASE
 13. GAS SERVICE ENTRANCE
 14. WATER SERVICE ENTRANCE
 15. RESTROOM AREA
 16. STOREFRONT WINDOW SYSTEM
 17. COLUMN ENCLOSURE (TYP.)
 18. BUILDING ELECTRICAL PANEL
 19. ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR
 20. TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT
 21. ELEVATOR (PASS. OR FREIGHT)
 22. HYDRAULIC ELEVATOR
 23. ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT
 24. LADDER
 25. COOLING TOWER

- GENERAL NOTES
1. Interior walls shown are of brick construction except in the basement where they are stone.
 2. Wood partition walls, wood shelves, etc. are not shown. Section A has several partition walls particularly on the first, second, and fifth floors. Section C has one all floors. Sections B and D have very few.
 3. Interior finishes are generally plaster walls and ceilings. Section A has gypsum board walls and suspended acoustic ceilings on the first, second, and fifth floors. Sections B and C have plaster ceilings and walls except Section C floors one and two which have wood paneling and acoustic ceiling. Section D has plaster walls and ceilings.
 4. All information contained in this set of drawings was obtained through informal field observation. It is not necessarily extensive, complete, or exact. It is intended to serve only as a general guide or an aid to further investigation. Any other use is beyond the scope of these documents.

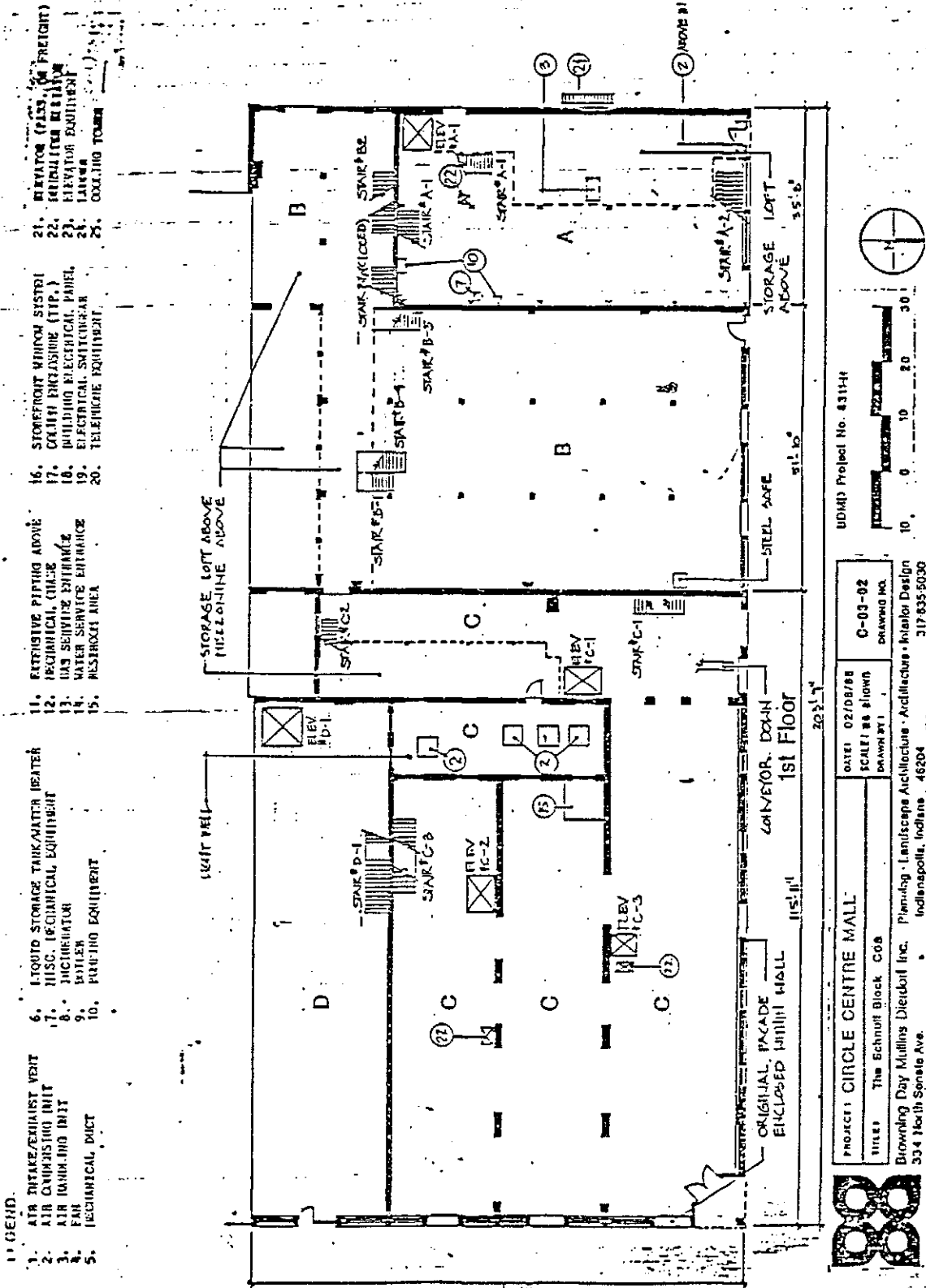
- Basement
-

- Basement
-

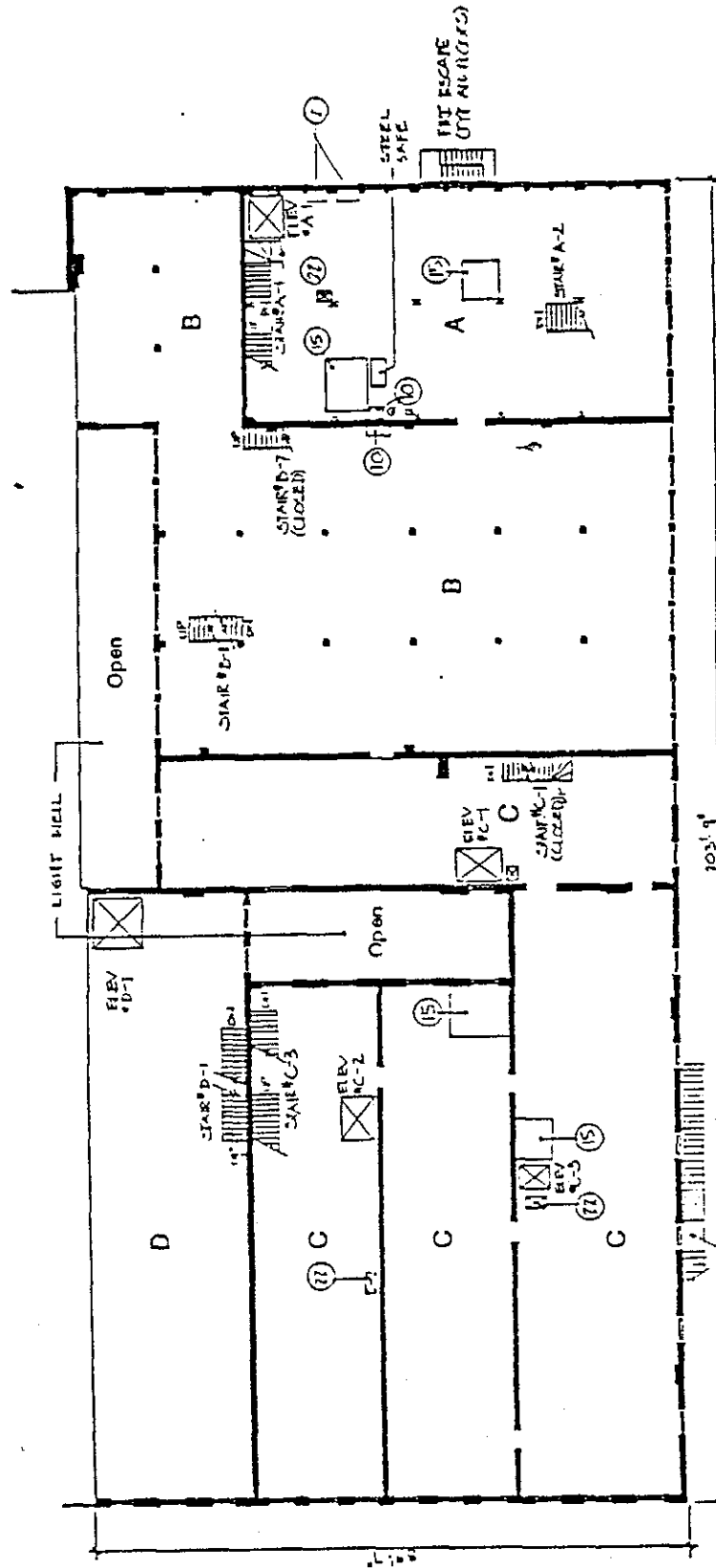
- Basement
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- Basement
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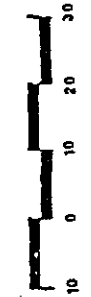
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(Commercial Building)
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- LEGEND**
1. AIR INTAKE/EXHAUST VENT
 2. AIR CONDENSING UNIT
 3. AIR HANDLING UNIT
 4. FAN
 5. MECHANICAL DUCT
 6. LIQUID STORAGE TANK/WATER HEATER
 7. MISC. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
 8. INCINERATOR
 9. BOILER
 10. PUMP/ING EQUIPMENT
 11. EXTENSIVE PIPING ABOVE
 12. MECHANICAL CHASE
 13. GAS SERVICE ENTRANCE
 14. WATER SERVICE ENTRANCE
 15. RESTROOM AREA
 16. STOREFRONT WINDOW SYSTEM
 17. COIL/IN ENCLOSURE (TYP.)
 18. BUILDING ELECTRICAL PANEL
 19. ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR
 20. TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT
 21. ELEVATOR (PASS. OR FREIGHT)
 22. DRINK/WATER ELEVATOR
 23. ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT
 24. LADDER
 25. COCKING TOGGLE



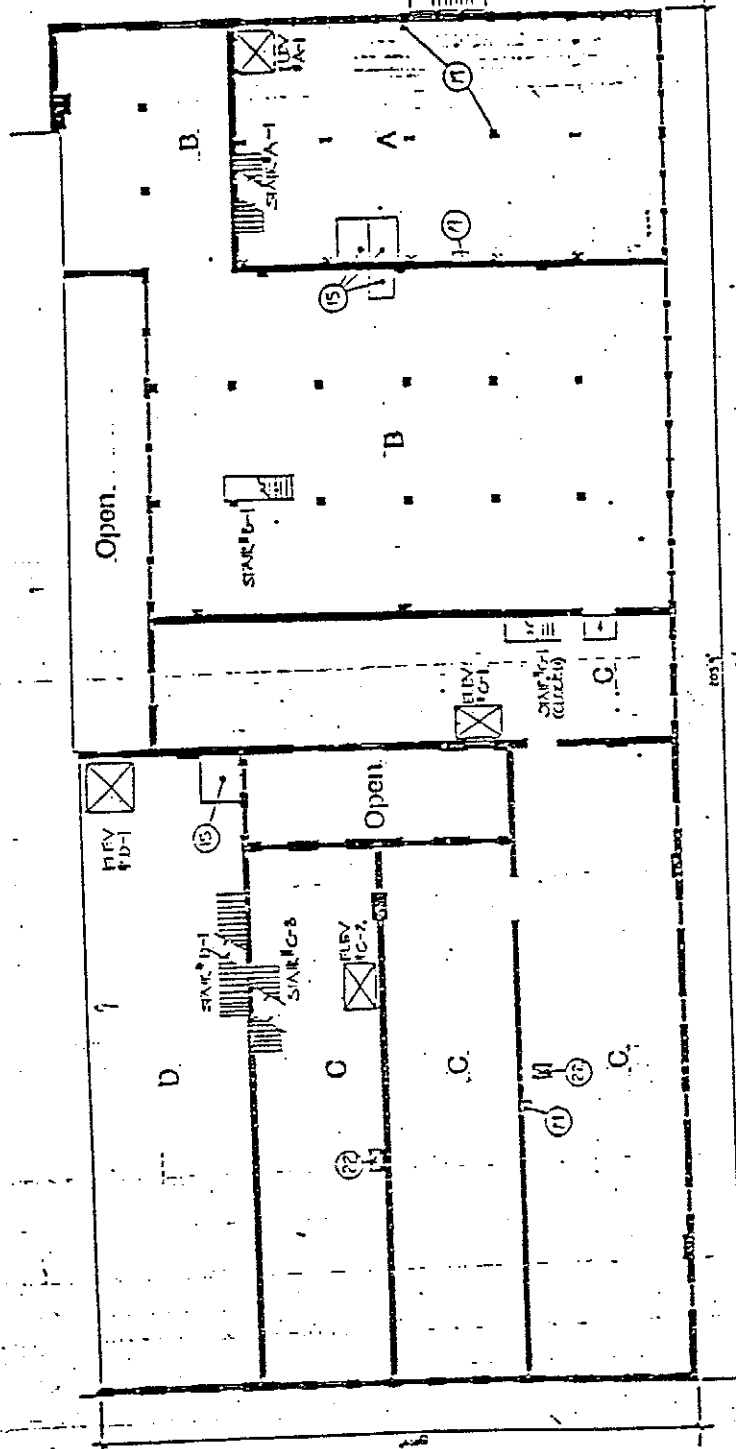
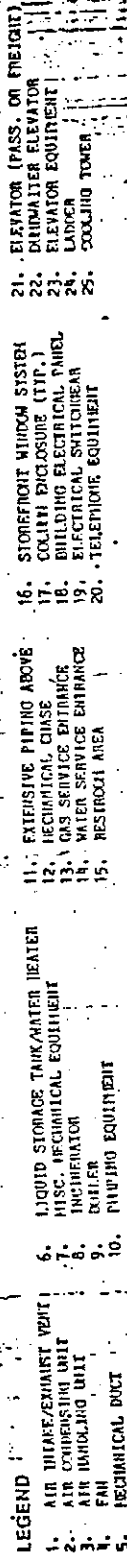
BOMD Project No. 8311-11



DATE: 02/08/88	C-03-03
SCALE: AS SHOWN	DRAWING NO.
DRAWN BY:	
PROJECT: CIRCLE CENTRE MALL	
TITLE: The Schnull Block C03	
Drawing Day Mullins Dordort Inc. Planning - Landscape Architecture - Interior Design	
334 North Senate Ave Indianapolis, Indiana 46204	



Schnull's Block (Commerical Building)
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3rd Floor

PROJECT: CHICAGO CENTRE MAIL	DATE: 02/08/88	1
SHEET: 1 OF THE Bennett Block C03 A	SCALE: AS SHOWN	C-03-04
	DATE: 02/08/88	DESIGNED BY:
Planning - Landscape Architecture - Architecture - Interior Design Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 317 635-5030		

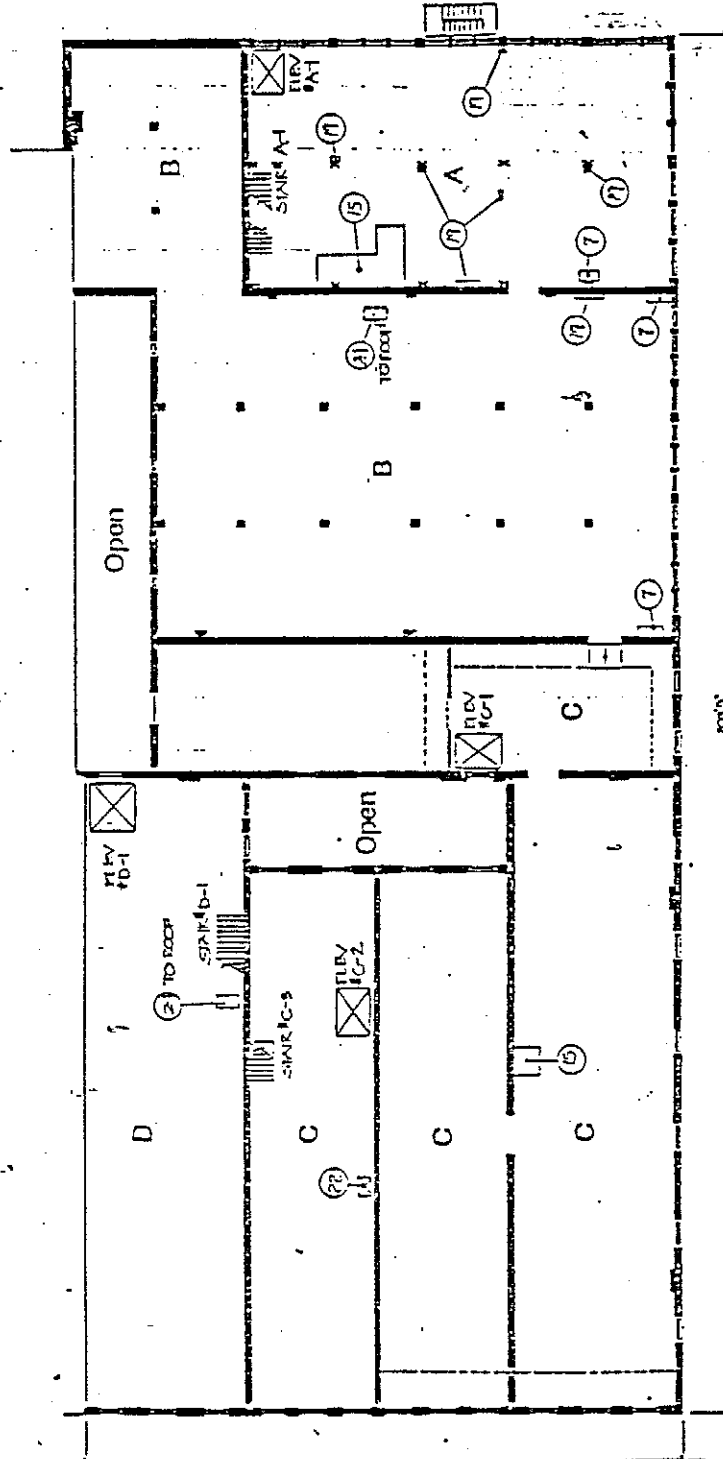


DDMD Project No. 8311.11

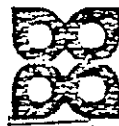


LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. AIR INTAKE/EXHAUST VENT | 6. LIQUID STORAGE TANK/WATER HEATER | 11. EXTENSIVE PILING ABOVE | 16. STOREFRONT WINDOW SYSTEM | 21. ELEVATOR (PASS. OR FREIGHT) |
| 2. AIR CONDENSING UNIT | 7. MISC. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT | 12. MECHANICAL CHASE | 17. CORN EXCLUSION (TYP.) | 22. INDUCTION ELEVATOR |
| 3. AIR HANDLING UNIT | 8. DISCHARGER | 13. GAS SERVICE ENTRANCE | 18. BUILDING ELECTRICAL PANEL | 23. ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT |
| 4. FAN | 9. INTAKE | 14. WATER SERVICE ENTRANCE | 19. ELECTRICAL SWITCHGEAR | 24. LADDER |
| 5. MECHANICAL DUCT | 10. PILING EQUIPMENT | 15. RESTROOM AREA | 20. TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT | 25. COOLING TOWER |



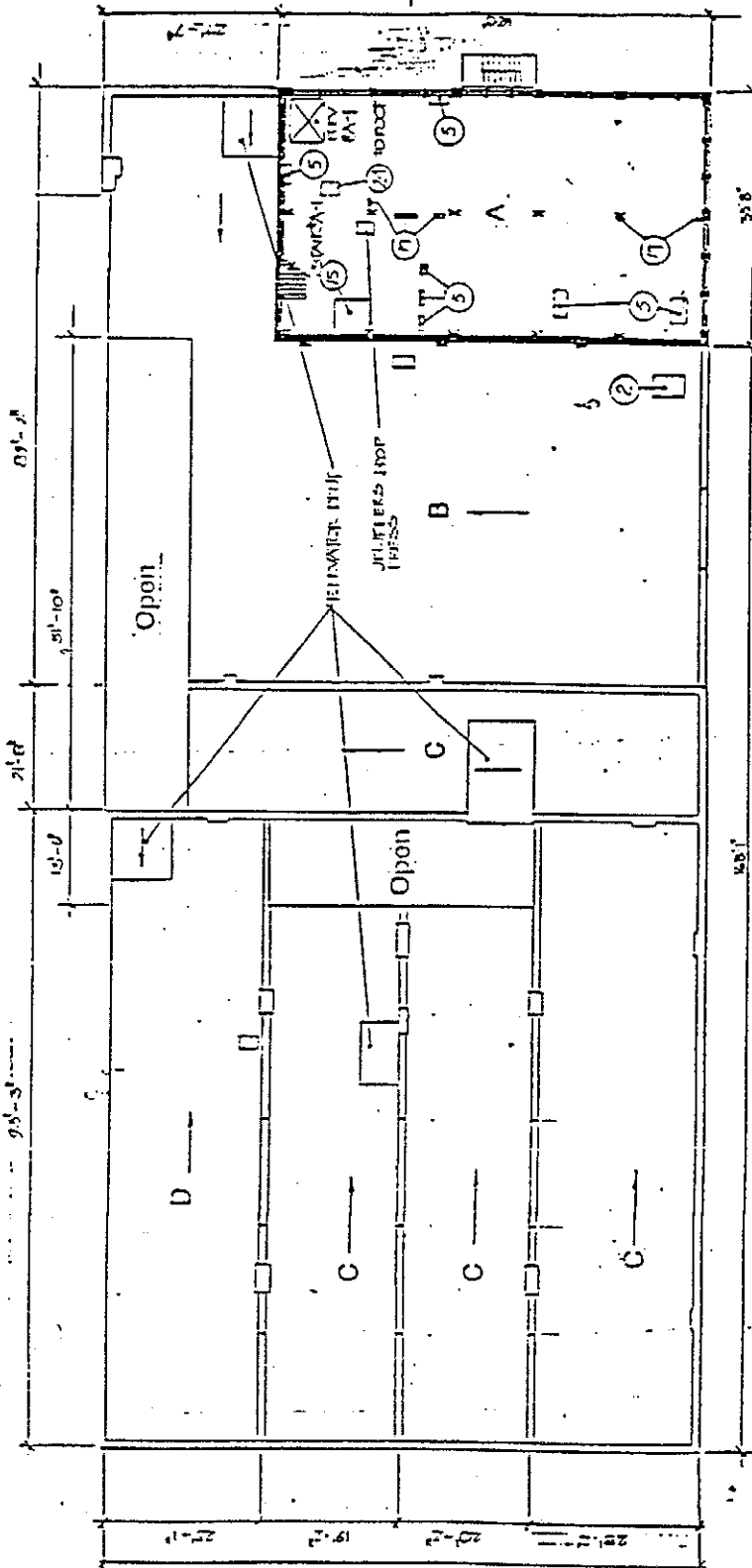
4th Floor



NDND Project No. 8311-11

PROJECT: CIRCLE CENTRE MALL	DATE: 02/08/88	0-03-05
TITLE: The Schnull Block, COS.	SCALE: AS SHOWN	DRAWING NO.
Drawing Day Mullins Dierckx Inc. Planning - Landscape Architecture - Interior Design 334 North Spang Ave. Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 317-635-5030		

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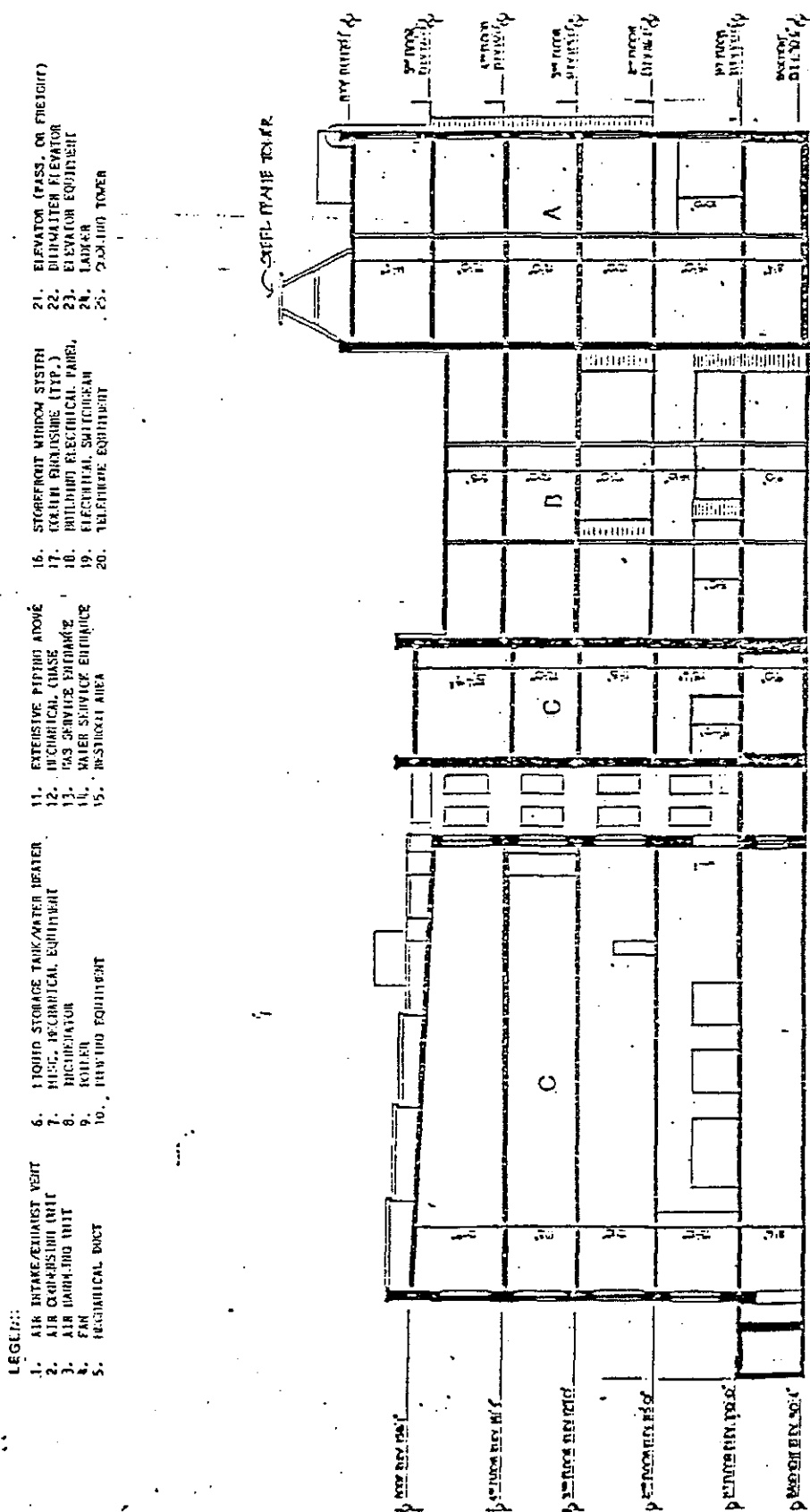
4th Floor Roof / 5th Floor

ВОПРОС ПОДНЯТ НО. 8318-18

PRODUCED BY: CIRCLE CENTRE MAIL TITLE: "The Schnuffl Dock" C05-6	DATE: 02/08/88 SCALE: as shown DRAWING NO.: C-03-08- DRAWING NO.: DRAWING NO.
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Lawrence Day Smith Inc. • Planning • Engineering • Architecture • Interior Design
334 North Senate Ave. • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • 317-635-5030

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10				
...				



Longitudinal Section

PROJECT: CIRCLE CENTRE MALL	DATE: 02/08/88	C-03-08 CON. DRAWING BY: ETC
	SCALE: AS SHOWN	
LINE: The Schnall Block "C03"	DRAWN BY: ETC	

Growing Day Mullins Dierdorf Inc. Planning • Landscape Architecture • Architecture • Interior Design

OWB:IN Project No. 0311-11

